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Borough of Aylesbury

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

ANNUAL REPORT

*on the Health of the Borough
for the Year 1955*

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Barrister at Law,
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

W. EWART RUSE, A.R.S.H., F.S.I.A.
BOROUGH SANITARY INSPECTOR

HEALTH COMMITTEE.

(Constituted May, 1955).

Councillor T. Hutchison (Chairman).
 Councillor Mrs. Z. A. P. Williams (Vice-Chairman).
 Councillor W. T. Fewkes (The Mayor).
 Alderman C. G. Cousins (Deputy Mayor).
 Alderman J. S. Holland.
 Alderman F. C. Mayne.
 Councillor Mrs. F. G. Hinxman.
 Councillor F. J. Henley.
 Councillor A. J. Sage.
 Councillor H. R. Sallis.
 Councillor C. H. Thorpe.

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

John T. C. Sims-Roberts,
 M.B., CH.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.
 Barrister at Law

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR.

W. Ewart Ruse, A.R.S.H., F.S.I.A.

ADDITIONAL SANITARY INSPECTORS.

Douglas Andrew, C.R.S.H., M.S.I.A.
 Dennis W. Rixon, C.R.S.H., M.S.I.A.

CLERICAL STAFF

Colin Richardson.
 Eric W. J. Miller.

Borough of Aylesbury

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
"FRIAR'S CROFT",
OXFORD ROAD,
AYLESBURY.

June, 1956.

MR. MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS,

I have the honour to present the annual report on the health and vital statistics of the Borough of Aylesbury for the year 1955, together with the report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector.

There has been no change in the staff of the Department during the year.

Included in the report are the surveys conducted by the No. 1 Mass Radiography Unit (Northants) administered by the Oxford Regional Hospital Board, among employees of the Southern Gas Board, and at H.M. Borstal Institution in October.

The increase in the total number of infectious diseases notified in the Borough was largely accounted for by a measles epidemic. Twelve of the 499 cases notified were treated in hospital. There was one death.

All the cases of poliomyelitis notified were treated at the Stoke Mandeville Hospital. Only 12 of the 45 cases notified were resident in the Borough, and of these six were of the paralytic type and six non-paralytic. There were no deaths.

The notification of the one case of food poisoning was received too late to trace the source of the infection with any hope of success. Of the five cases of sonne dysentery two were from the Manor House Institution and one from the Bucks County Council Children's Home, Walton Road. The notification of a paratyphoid case referred to a person residing outside the Borough but treated in a hospital in the Borough.

Although from the recently completed housing survey the number of houses in the Borough declared unfit for human habitation is comparatively small, there will inevitably be a number which will fall into this category as routine inspections reveal major defects.

The housing shortage is still acute but as this diminishes so let us hope will standards be raised, for there are still far too many houses in the Borough with insufficient space for the preparation and storage of food, or bathroom accommodation.

It is pleasing to record my thanks to the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors for their advice and assistance throughout the year and to the members of the Health staff for their general co-operation, and assistance in compiling the reports.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

J. T. C. SIMS ROBERTS.

M.B., CH.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area	3,288 acres
Population (estimated mid 1955)	21,330
Number of inhabited houses (at end of 1955 according to Rate Books)	6,453
Rateable Value	£211,672
Sum represented by a penny rate	£843

UNEMPLOYMENT.

At 31st December, 1954.

† 16 women

* 27 men

—
43
—

At 31st December, 1955.

‡ 34 women

§ 30 men

—
64
—

† Includes 13 non-claimants.

* " 14 " "

‡ " 25 " "

§ " 14 " "

VITAL STATISTICS.

BIRTHS.

Live Births:—

	1954.			1955.		
	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.
Legitimate ...	160	158	318	178	141	319
Illegitimate ...	20	17	37	17	17	34
Rate per 1,000 estimated population ...	16.75			16.55		
Rate (corrected)	14.57			14.40		
Rate for England and Wales	15.2			15.0		

Still Births:—

	1954.			1955.		
	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.
Legitimate ...	4	3	7	2	2	4
Illegitimate ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rate per 1,000 estimated population (live and still) births	17.08			16.74		

DEATHS.

	1954.			1955.		
	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.
Deaths	97	106	203	107	109	216
Rate per 1,000 estimated pop. ...	9.58			10.13		
Standardised Rate	10.25			10.84		
Rate for England and Wales	11.3			11.7		

Deaths of infants under one year of age:—

	1954.			1955.		
	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.
Legitimate ...	2	4	6	2	4	6
Illegitimate ...	—	—	—	—	—	—

Rate of infants under one year of age:—

	1954.	1955.
All infants per 1,000 live births ...	16.90	17.00
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ...	18.87	18.81
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births ...	—	—

Deaths of infants under 4 weeks of age:—

	1954.			1955.		
	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.
Legitimate ...	2	4	6	1	2	3
Illegitimate ...	—	—	—	—	—	—

	1954.	1955.
Neo-Natal Mortality Rate per 1,000 births	16.90	8.50

ANALYSIS OF DEATHS.

	M.	F.
Syphilitic Disease ...	2	—
Measles ...	—	1
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases ...	1	1
Malignant neoplasm, stomach ...	4	4
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ...	5	—
Malignant neoplasm, breast ...	—	1
Malignant neoplasm, uterus ...	—	2
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms ...	12	5
Leukaemia and Aleukaemia ...	—	2
Vascular Lesions of nervous system ...	10	22
Coronary disease, angina ...	14	10
Hypertension with heart disease ...	6	2
Other heart disease ...	9	13
Other circulatory disease ...	5	8
Influenza ...	1	—
Pneumonia ...	11	10
Bronchitis ...	5	2
Other diseases of respiratory system ...	2	1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ...	2	—
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ...	—	2
Nephritis and Nephrosis ...	1	2
Hyperplasia of prostate ...	1	—
Other defined and ill-defined diseases ...	11	17
Accidents (excluding motor vehicle) ...	5	4
	<hr/> 107	<hr/> 109

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

Hospitals.

During the year the Royal Bucks, Tindal General and Stoke Mandeville Hospitals have provided accommodation for surgical and medical cases whilst the Isolation Hospital continued to admit persons suffering from infectious diseases.

Stoke Mandeville Hospital also provided accommodation for para-plegic cases.

The above hospitals situated in the Borough are administered by the Royal Buckinghamshire and Associated Hospitals Management Committee who are responsible to the Oxford Regional Hospital Board.

Pathology Laboratory, Stoke Mandeville Hospital.

Routine samples of milk, water and ice cream and other specimens requiring pathological examination are submitted to the above. When necessary the services of the Public Health Laboratories at Luton and Oxford are utilised.

Ambulance Services.

Eight ambulances, including two sitting-case type, are stationed in Buckingham Street for use in the town and surrounding districts.

Maternity and Child Welfare.

Infant Welfare Clinics are still held at Pebble Lane, Quarrendon Estate and Southcourt and controlled by the Bucks County Council.

Diphtheria and Whooping Cough Immunisation.

As the Local Health Authority, defined in the National Health Service Act, 1946, the Bucks County Council control the immunisation of children against these diseases.

Treatment of Venereal Disease.

The Royal Buckinghamshire and Associated Hospitals Management Committee administer a clinic held regularly at the Royal Bucks Hospital for the treatment of the above disease.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

	Total notifications received.			Cases admitted to Isolation Hospital.	
	1954.	1955.		1954.	1955.
		Male.	Female.		
Measles	1	290	209	—	12
Whooping Cough	34	5	5	—	—
Sonne Dysentery	11	3	2	5	2
Pneumonia	4	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	12	1	6	2	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	15	—	16	13	15
Poliomyelitis	2	18	27	2	45
Erysipelas	3	—	2	—	1
Food Poisoning	1	1	—	1	1
Paratyphoid B	2	—	1	2	1
Meningococcal Meningitis	1	—	—	1	—

The No. 1 (Northants) Mass Radiography Unit administered by the Oxford Regional Hospital Board conducted surveys during October at the Southern Gas Board and H.M. Borstal Institution, with the following results: —

Southern Gas Board.

Response 64%

<i>Summary of Work.</i>	Male.	Female	Total.
No. of miniature films taken	89	10	99
No. of large films taken	—	1	1
No. recalled for clinical examination	—	—	—
No. referred to chest clinic	—	—	—
No. previously examined by M.M.R.	70	7	77
No. not previously examined by M.M.R.	19	3	22

H.M. Borstal Institution.

Response 100%

<i>Summary of Work.</i>	Male.	Female.	Total.
No. of miniature films taken	18	184	202
No. of large films taken	—	2	2
No. recalled for clinical examination	—	—	—
No. referred to chest clinic	—	—	—
No. previously examined by M.M.R.	5	60	65
No. not previously examined by M.M.R.	13	124	137

Summary of newly discovered cases of significant tuberculosis found in the Borstal Survey.

Group.	No. Examined.	Active P.T.B.	Inactive P.T.B.
Staff	58	—	—
Inmates	144	—	—
Total	202	—	—

Incidence of Notifiable Diseases during the year with Analysis under Age Groups.

	Under 1 year.	1 — 2 yrs.	3 — 4 yrs.	5 — 9 yrs.	10 — 14 yrs.	15 — 24 yrs.	25 — 44 yrs.	45 — 65 years.	Over 65 yrs.	Age unknown.	Totals.
Measles	10	83	116	266	17	5	1	—	—	1	499
Whooping Cough ...	4	1	2	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	10
Sonne Dysentery ...	—	—	—	1	3	1	—	—	—	—	5
Scarlet Fever ...	—	—	—	2	—	4	—	1	—	—	7
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	—	—	—	—	—	9	7	—	—	—	16
Poliomyelitis	—	4	6	12	8	5	10	—	—	—	45
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	2
Food Poisoning ...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Paratyphoid B	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1

TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Groups.	New Cases			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 —	—	—	—	—
1 —	—	—	—	—
5 —	—	—	—	—
15 —	2	1	—	—
25 —	1(2)	1(3)	—	—
35 —	4(1)	2	—	—
45 —	4(1)	2	—	—
55 —	—	—	—	—
65 — and upwards	—	1	—	—
Age unknown ...	—	—	—	—
	11(4)	7(3)	—	—

The figures in brackets denote the number of cases notified originally in other districts and who have moved into the Borough during the year.

The Isolation Hospital in Mandeville Road has a block containing 15 beds for the treatment of persons suffering from Tuberculosis.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES IN THE AREA

Water Supply.

The water supply of the Borough is obtained through the Bucks Water Board from wells situated at Dancers End, New Ground and Hawridge, which are on the Chiltern Hills.

Sampling has been carried out during the year by the Water Authority at their wells and also in the town. All samples were satisfactory.

Thirteen samples were taken and submitted for bacteriological examination by this Department from domestic sources in the Borough. Reports proved that the water was satisfactory in all cases.

All houses in the Borough are connected to the mains supply and the quantity of water supplied to the town is adequate.

Drainage and Sewerage.

The drainage and sewerage of the Borough is partially on the separate system with surface water from streets and buildings being discharged to water courses, and partially on the combined system where all surface water discharged into the sewers is eventually treated at the sewage disposal works.

Public Cleansing.

Refuse disposal is now carried out completely by controlled tipping. Salvage collection is made before and after tipping of the refuse.

The collection of refuse is done by modern dustless loading types of vehicles and both this service and that of street cleansing continues to be operated in an efficient manner although the maintenance of sufficient labour for this work is becoming increasingly difficult.

Open-Air Swimming Pool, Park Street.

The water in the pool circulates continuously throughout the period of use, being filtered and chlorinated before re-introduction to the swimming pool.

Eight samples of water taken during the summer months and submitted for examination were satisfactory.

Slipper Baths, Bourbon Street.

The slipper baths continue to be used and their condition throughout the year has been satisfactory.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

The number of rooms requiring disinfestation was 5.

Schools.

The water supply and sanitary accommodation to all schools in the Borough are adequate.

Local Rainfall.

January	...	1.95 ins.	July	...	...	0.23 ins.
February	...	1.03 „	August	...	...	0.52 „
March	...	0.97 „	September	...	...	1.46 „
April	...	0.61 „	October	...	...	2.17 „
May	...	4.80 „	November	...	...	1.16 „
June	...	2.69 „	December	...	...	2.67 „

Total rainfall for the year 20.26 inches.

(Figures supplied by Mr. J. D. Dugdale, Borough Engineer and Surveyor).

Mr. Dugdale stated that rain fell on 137 days during the year compared with 166 in 1954. The total for the year of 20.26 ins. is the fourth lowest recording since 1921 when the figure was 10.98 ins, the others being 18.05 ins. (1933), 18.59 ins. (1947) and 19.00 ins. (1953). The 0.23 ins. is the lowest since 1921, when it was 0.11 ins, and the fourth lowest in the last 50 years. The August recording of 0.52 ins. is the third lowest over the same period. The highest rainfall recorded occurred on 17th and 26th May (0.92 ins.), 7th June (0.72 ins.) and 19th October (0.55 ins.). The total for May of 4.80 ins. has only been exceeded twice in the last 50 years.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) Milk Supply.

Messrs. Nesmilk Ltd., and the Aylesbury Co-operative Society are licensed by the Bucks County Council to pasteurise milk in the Borough. Both carry out this treatment on a large scale and their premises are equipped with "holder" type plants.

The Bucks County Council carry out sampling of this milk at the plants to ensure that it is being efficiently heat treated.

Thirty-three samples of milk were taken in course of delivery to the consumer during the year, with the following results: —

Grade.	Samples Taken.	Complied with Regulations.	Test Inconclusive.
Tuberculin Tested ...	11	8	1
Tuberculin Tested Pasteurised	10	8	2
Pasteurised	12	10	2

There were two unsatisfactory "Tuberculin Tested" samples taken during the year. In the case of the first one, during September, follow-up samples have been satisfactory, and in the case of the second, during December, a further sample will be taken in January, 1956.

(b) *Meat and Other Foods.*

Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed and inspected	2425	516	733	7629	3195
<i>All Diseases except Tuberculosis.</i>					
Whole carcases condemned	—	3	1	10	1
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	567	61	1	240	125
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	23.38%	12.40%	.27%	3.28%	3.94%
<i>Tuberculosis only.</i>					
Whole carcases condemned	3	3	—	—	1
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	194	75	1	—	31
Percentage of number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	8.12%	15.12%	.14%	—	1.01%
<i>Cysticercus Bovis.</i>					
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	8	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted for treatment by refrigeration ...	8	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—

Fifteen licences were issued to slaughtermen during the year.

FACTORIES AND WORKPLACES.

Informal action has been taken where necessary under the provisions of the Factories Act, 1937, and the Public Health Act, 1936, to remedy contraventions of the requirements of these Acts in mechanical and non-mechanical factories and workplaces.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

1. Inspections for the purposes of provision as to health.

Premises.	Inspections.	Number of Written Notices.	Occupiers Prosecuted.
Factories without mechanical power	56	3	—
Factories with mechanical power			

2. Defects found.

	Found.	Remedied.	Referred to H.M. Inspector.	Number of defects in respect of which prosecutions were instituted.
Sanitary Conveniences (Sec. 7).				
Unsuitable or defective	1	1	1	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork).	2	2	—	—
Total ...	3	3	1	—

Outwork in unwholesome premises.

There are seven outworker's premises in the town, all of which are in a satisfactory condition.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BOROUGH SANITARY INSPECTOR

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
"FRIAR'S CROFT",
OXFORD ROAD,
AYLESBURY.

MR. MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the work of the Public Health Department during the year 1955.

Housing.

The survey of the Borough referred to in the last report was concluded early in the year and a report submitted recommending that 35 houses in 3 areas be demolished as unfit. The report was submitted to the Minister of Housing and Local Government and approved, and the first area, containing 8 houses, was formally reported to the Committee and declared to be a Clearance Area in December. Detailed inspection of the remaining two areas is proceeding and it is anticipated that formal reports to Committee will be made early next year.

Little use appears to have been made by landlords of their powers to increase their rents as permitted under the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, and no applications for Certificates of Disrepair under the Act have been received from tenants.

The provisions of the Act enabling Local Authorities to make grants towards the cost of improvement of properties has also been very little used, and in the main, applications received have been from owner-occupiers.

General work carried out under the Housing Acts is detailed in the following table.

No. of houses inspected	73
Visits paid to above houses ...	194
Informal Notices served ...	19
Statutory Notices served ...	30
<hr/>	
Houses repaired: —	
By owners	4
By the Borough Council in default	27

Some 24 of the houses repaired by the Council in default of action by the owners are owned by one person, who has caused a great deal of trouble to the Department for many years. In the early part of the year his affairs were temporarily in the hands of the Official Receiver and it was found possible to get essential repairs, some of which had needed attention for some time, put in hand. The cost of all work carried out in default is recoverable from the owners of the property.

Overcrowding.

Four complaints of overcrowding were received and investigated during the year and referred to the Housing Department for assistance.

Disinfestation.

Only one case of bed-bug infestation was reported during the year. This was found on a change of tenancy and was obviously of long standing as repeated efforts with D.D.T. failed to eradicate the vermin and the house eventually had to be fumigated with H.C.N. The steady decline in reports of vermin infestation is most heartening, and one can look forward to the day when the town will be entirely free from such insects.

Public Health Act.

The following is a summary of the work carried out under the above Act.

The majority of Statutory Notices under this Act dealt with repairs to sewers under Section 24 of the Act, which are carried out by the Council, the costs being recovered from the owners of the properties served. The most difficult case dealt with this year was the repair of a sewer serving eight houses in Whitehall Street. This consisted of a brick

culvert some 5 to 7 feet deep in a narrow passage some 3 feet wide running between two blocks of four cottages which was so defective that rats were leaving the sewer and infesting the houses. The sewer was relaid in earthenware pipes at a higher level without causing damage to either of the adjacent houses, and I should like to express my thanks to the Borough Engineer and Surveyor's Department for their assistance in supervising the work.

No. of houses inspected	8
Visits paid to above houses ...	15
Drainage visits	349
Nuisances found	1
Nuisances abated	1
Informal notices served	Nil
Statutory notices served ...	6

All the notices were complied with.

Food.

Slaughterhouses.

1955 was the first complete year when slaughter of animals was under private control since 1939, and it is now possible to assess with some degree of accuracy the picture of slaughtering in the Borough and the amount of inspection involved. The rate of killing follows the same pattern as under Ministry control, being lowest in the first quarter and rising gradually each quarter to its peak in the last quarter. It will be noticed that the greatest variation in the figure of animals slaughtered occurs in relation to sheep, which take the least time for examination, so that the amount of time spent on inspection at the slaughterhouses actually varies very little throughout the year. As stated last year, one of the slaughterhouses eats for the owner only, and all killing is completed and inspections carried out during normal office hours. The remaining two slaughterhouses eat for a fairly large wholesale trade and slaughtering is carried on on three and sometimes four days a week and on Saturdays.

One hundred per cent inspection has been maintained and this has entailed 919 visits to slaughterhouses and the working of some 250 hours of overtime.

The numbers of animals slaughtered and results of inspections are shown in the following tables.

Number of animals slaughtered and inspected during the year:—

Quarter	Cows	Other Cattle	Calves	Sheep	Pigs	Total
1st	195	570	188	682	975	2610
2nd	98	428	142	1000	961	2629
3rd	91	610	148	2348	745	3942
4th	132	817	255	3599	514	5317
Totals	516	2425	733	7629	3195	14498

Tables showing Condemned Organs of Animals.

CATTLE.

	Head	Tongue	Liver	Lungs	Heart	Spleen	Kidneys	Udder	Skirt
Distoma Hepaticum ...			523						
Cavernous Angioma			9						
Actinomycosis ...	3	5							
Actinobacillosis ...	2	3							
Tuberculosis ...	124	124	40	179		4	3	2	10
Cystic			1	7			3		
Cysticercus Bovis	8	8							
Inflammation ..			2	7	8	12			2
Congestion				1	1				
Abscessed	1	1	73	8			1		
Fatty Change ...			4						
Nephritis							2		
Tumoured			1						
Hypertrophy ...			1						
Parasitic			2	1					
Fasciolae				1					

Carcases Condemned (including all offal).

Generalised T.B.	6
Injured, Fevered and Dropsical	1
Dropsy and Emaciation	1
Extensive Bruising	1
Total ...	9

In addition to the above, 8 carcasses were found to be affected with *Cysticercus Bovis* and transferred to cold storage before being released for human consumption.

SHEEP.

	Head	Liver	Pluck
Distoma Hepaticum		194	
Parasitic		53	1
Fatty Change		1	
Pneumonia	1		2
Septicaemia	1		1
Abcessed		2	

Carcases Condemned (incl. all offal).

Dropsy and Emaciation	8
Generalised Emaciation	1
Septicaemia	1
Total ...	10

PIGS.

	Head & Tongue	Liver	Lungs	Heart	Kidney	Pluck
Tuberculosis ...	30					3
Inflammation ...		1	16	21		6
Cirrhosis		3				
Congestion			4	1		3
Pneumonia			51			2
Parasitic		5				1
Cystic		1			2	
Pericarditis				2		
Nephritis					2	
Pleurisy						2
Petechiae					1	

Carcases Condemned (incl. all offal).

Imperfect Bleeding and Oedematous ..	1
Generalised Tuberculosis	1
Total ...	2

CALVES.

	Pluck
Tuberculosis	1
Pneumonia	1

Carcases Condemned (incl. all offal).

Dropsy	1
Total ...	1

Weight of Condemned Meat and Offal.

	Lbs.
Cow Beef	4,449
Cow Offal	1,845
Other Beef	6,151
Other Bovine Offal	8,359
Pork	924
Pork Offal	888
Mutton	565
Mutton Offal	1,545
Veal	38
Veal Offal	11
Total ...	24,775

Total: 11 tons 1 cwt 23 lbs.

Fifteen slaughtermen's licences were issued during the year.

The following foodstuffs were surrendered and disposed of from wholesale and retail premises in the Borough:

	Weight		Number
	Lbs.	Ozs.	
Cheese	445	8	—
Fresh Fruit	9	—	—
Fresh Meat	741	—	—
Fish	165	—	—
Tinned Vegetables ...	620	—	375
.. Fruit	788	15	538
.. Meat	1,265	6	225
.. Fish	57	2	66
.. Milk	204	8	131
Preserves	53	—	29
Miscellaneous	134	14	—
Total ...	4,484	5	1,364

Total Foodstuffs condemned during the year: —

Meat and Offal	11 tons. 1 cwt. 23 lbs. — ozs.
Various Foodstuffs ...	2 tons. 0 cwt. 4 lbs. 5 ozs.
Total ...	13 tons. 1 cwt. 27 lbs. 5 ozs.

Disposal of condemned food is left to the retailer.

Milk and Dairies.

By an order made by the Minister of Food under the provisions of the Food and Drugs (Milk, Dairies and Artificial Cream) Act, 1950, Aylesbury became a Designated Area in March, with the result that only Tuberculin Tested, Pasteurised or Sterilised Milk can be sold in the Borough. Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk must be bottled at the place where it is created, and the majority of Tuberculin Tested Milk is bottled at the place of production, with the result that most dairymen are now distributors of bottled milk which they obtain from premises controlled by another Authority.

Producers of milk are licensed and controlled by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, and the two local firms who pasteurise milk are licensed by the County Council as the Food and Drugs Authority.

Two visits were paid to dairies during the year to ensure that the premises were maintained in clean and hygienic conditions, and the sampling of milk in course of delivery was maintained to ensure that the milk conformed to the required standards. The results of these samples are contained in the Medical Officer of Health's report.

No action against milk retailers for contravention of the Regulations was necessary during the year.

Licences under the Milk (Special Designation) Regulations, 1949, were issued as follows: —

“Tuberculin Tested” and “Pasteurised” Licences: —

W. Cartwright & Son, 61 Buckingham Street, Aylesbury.

F. J. Child, 156 Cambridge Street, Aylesbury.

T. Elliott, 41 Market Square, Aylesbury.

Dickens & Warner, 8 Albion Street, Aylesbury.
 L. J. Evett & Co., 99 Park Street, Aylesbury.
 W. Hodgkins, 87 Wendover Road, Aylesbury.
 Hornby & Clarke Ltd., Princes Street, Richmond.
 J. Lisley & Son, 83 Tring Road, Aylesbury.
 A. T. Piggott, 139 Wendover Road, Aylesbury.
 A. A. Willis, 3 Tindal Road, Aylesbury.
 H. H. Willis, 2 Aseott Road, Aylesbury.
 W. H. Willis, 6 Manor Drive, Aylesbury.
 Nestle Co. Ltd., High Street, Aylesbury.
 S. Hall, 24C High Street, Aylesbury.
 A. Tilbrook, 125 Oxford Road, Aylesbury.

"Tuberculin Tested" Licences only: —

Aylesbury Co-operative Society Ltd., High Street, Aylesbury.
 Nesmilk Ltd., High Street, Aylesbury.

"Sterilised" Licences: —

A. T. Piggott, 139 Wendover Road, Aylesbury.
 Hornby & Clarke Ltd., Princes Street, Richmond.
 L. J. Evett & Co., 99 Park Street, Aylesbury.

Two producers of "Tuberculin Tested" milk licensed by the Milk Regulations Officer, County Farm, Stoke Mandeville, retail milk in the Borough: —

F. J. Davis & Son, Old House Farm, Bierton.
 R. S. Pearce, Stoke Farm, Stoke Mandeville.

Ice Cream.

Eighty-three premises are registered for the sale of ice-cream, and in the majority of cases pre-packed ice-cream made by one of the large wholesale firms is sold. Only one person manufactured ice-cream in the Borough, and in this case a cold mix ice-cream using previously heat treated ingredients was produced.

As most of the ice-cream sold in the Borough comes from some four wholesale firms, it would be mere repetition to take samples from all the retailers. 18 samples were submitted for analysis during the year and all proved satisfactory. 19 visits were paid to registered premises.

Food Shops, Restaurants, etc.

The following table shows the visits made to food shops and food preparing premises for the purpose of examining foodstuffs and observing the compliance or otherwise with the requirements of the Food and Drugs Acts and Byelaws. The reduction in the number of visits made under this heading is due partly to the increased time spent on meat inspection, but mainly to the fact that it was felt it would be wise to wait for the issue of the Hygiene Regulations proposed to be made under the Food and Drugs Amendment Act, 1954. Unfortunately these were not issued until December, to come into operation in January, of 1956, and it is anticipated that visits under this head will be increased during 1956.

Market Stalls	665
Grocers	106
Butchers	45
Restaurants	9
Fishmongers	11
Food Preparing Premises ...	13

Clean Food Campaign.

As stated in my last report, a further meeting of the Guild was to be called when the Hygiene Regulations referred to above were issued. As these were not issued until December, no meeting of the Guild was held during the year.

Water Supply.

Every house in the Borough is supplied with piped water obtained from the Chiltern Hills by the Bucks Water Board.

The standard of bacterial purity of the water remained satisfactory. 13 samples taken during the year satisfied the standards laid down by the Ministry of Health.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

Work under this heading was maintained during the year at a steady level, the figures of premises treated and rats and mice destroyed showing little variation over the previous year.

No major infestation of either rats or mice was found during the year, but the consistent figures for the last four or five years of premises treated, points laid and rat and mouse bodies found emphasise the conclusion I drew some 3 years ago, that the lowest level of rodent infestation of the Borough has been reached and that continued vigilance must be maintained to prevent an increase in the rate of infestation.

The sewers were treated in June and October and infestation was discovered in 11 manholes which were baited, sausage rusk and zinc phosphide being used on the first occasion and anurusk and arsenic on the second.

Warfarin has again been used for all normal treatments and continues to give good results.

Nineteen Annual agreements with various firms in the town for a total sum of £209 10s. 0d. are in operation, all the premises being visited periodically and treated as necessary. The cost of all other work done on business premises was recovered and amounted to £40 13s. 6d. A free service is given to private householders, half the cost of this service being met by an Exchequer Grant.

The Borough are constituent members of the North Bucks Workable Area Rodent Control Committee which meets twice yearly to discuss matters of mutual interest and receive reports from the Ministry Officers of new methods and improved techniques of rodent control. I had the honour to be Chairman of this Committee for the last year.

One wasp nest was destroyed during the year.

Private Premises treated	329
Business Premises treated	167
Local Authority Premises treated ...	14
Rat bodies found	586
Mouse bodies found	185
Points laid — Private Premises	853
Points laid — Business Premises	812
Points laid — Local Auth. Premises ...	238
Manholes treated	111
Visits made by — Rodent Operator ...	546
Sanitary Inspectors	38

Factories Act, 1937.

Mechanical factories on register requiring visiting	86
Non-mechanical factories on register requiring visiting ...	23
Visits paid to Factories	56

No formal action was necessary under the Factories Act during the year, but in consultation with the Factory Inspector negotiations were held with the owners of one factory in the town to obtain improvements in the working conditions, the direct result of which has been that the factory has moved to new and more suitable premises.

Shops Act, 1950.

All shops in the Borough continue to close at hours earlier than those allowed in the Act, and no action was necessary against any shopkeeper for non-compliance with the Shops Act.

Petroleum.

Licences issued for storage of Petroleum Spirit and Mixtures	61
Licences issued for storage of Carbide of Calcium	1
Inspections of Petrol and Carbide Stores	32

Quantity licensed to be stored: —

Petroleum Spirit	124,604 gals.
Petroleum Mixtures	1,455 „
Carbide of Calcium	300 lbs.
Total of Licence fees	£48

Public Conveniences.

The general standard of cleanliness in the public conveniences has been maintained during the year, but it seems to be impossible to stop the defacement of the walls and the petty damage to walls and fittings which continues year after year.

This continual damage by certain sections of the public to amenities which are supplied out of public funds for their convenience is something which is difficult to understand.

The conveniences in the High Street, Old Stoke Road and at the Cattle Market continue to be kept open all night.

433 inspections of conveniences were made during the year.

Miscellaneous.

Other work of the Department not covered by any of the previous headings include the following: —

Miscellaneous Sanitary Visits	304
Interviews	515
Complaints received and investigated ...	92
Infected house visits	32
Smoke observations	12
Moveable Dwellings inspected	6
Marine Stores visits	3

There has been no change of staff during the year, and the work of the Department has continued smoothly and efficiently.

I would like to end my report by expressing once again my appreciation to the Members of the Council and Health Committee for their continued help and confidence, to members of my staff for their loyal co-operation and to my fellow officers for advice and assistance.

I am,

Mr. Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,

Your obedient Servant,

W. EWART RUSE, F.S.I.A., A.R.S.H.

Borough Sanitary Inspector.